



Food waste AD industry is at a pivotal moment

Christer Stoyell, CEO of Biotech4 Group

The food waste anaerobic digestion industry is entering an exciting new phase, filled with opportunities for growth and innovation. Having led businesses in this sector for the past four years, I've seen firsthand how dynamic and rewarding this industry has become – and the future promises even more potential.

Earlier this year, I transitioned from my role of managing director at Severn Trent Green Power to the chief executive officer at the Biotech4 group, joining a strong, capable, and well-respected team. I was drawn by the group's solid reputation, impressive geographic coverage, and significant potential for future growth in food waste.

Biotech4 is uniquely positioned with its AD expertise and integrated group structure, which includes STORTEC (engineering and construction) and Harris Tobias (commodity trading). Over the coming years, our focus will be on building operational excellence, serving and expanding our customer base, increasing our presence in the biofuels market and establishing ourselves as a leader in designing, building and operating AD plants across Europe.

There are several emerging opportunities that the AD industry is poised to benefit from. Legislative changes, particularly the mandatory introduction of food waste collections, present a major opportunity for Local Authorities to achieve substantial

financial savings by diverting waste from costly landfill disposal. Additionally, the UK government's clear 2030 energy decarbonisation goal highlights the critical role of reliable base-load green energy, where anaerobic digestion can make a vital contribution.

The continued growth in anaerobic digestion investment across the UK and Europe opens further opportunities for innovation and expansion, particularly through our engineering and construction expertise within STORTEC, positioning us as a key partner in developing and delivering cutting-edge AD infrastructure. Although, this isn't the only green initiative experiencing significant investment growth. The rising popularity of the biofuels market presents another major opportunity, with Harris Tobias's expertise in raw materials positioning us perfectly to meet the increasing supply and demand in this area.

Of course, with opportunity comes challenge. The current uncertain economic climate poses potential financial pressures on green energy initiatives, requiring resilience and adaptability to navigate this while continuing to drive progress in the sector. Another concern is the management of physical assets in a world increasingly impacted by extreme weather events. During my time running businesses in this sector, I've faced challenges caused by extreme heat, cold, wind, and rain, as well as lightning strikes – all of which can have significant effects on infrastructure, equipment, and, most importantly, staff safety and wellbeing. These events highlight the need for robust systems and strategies to ensure resilience in the face of a changing climate.

As we look ahead, the food waste anaerobic digestion industry stands at a pivotal moment, with great opportunities to drive innovation, sustainability and growth. While challenges such as economic uncertainty and climate resilience must be addressed, our sector's ability to adapt and thrive has never been stronger. By harnessing our expertise, integrated capabilities and forward-thinking approach, we are ready to play a leading role in building a cleaner, greener future.

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